

# OVERVIEW OF PARTNER SERVICES



Partner services (PS) aim to provide an array of free, confidential client centered programs offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and county/municipal health departments to support individuals diagnosed with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Individuals diagnosed with HIV, syphilis, chlamydia, or gonorrhea, can unknowingly continue to spread the infection to others.

The goal of PS is to connect individuals who are newly diagnosed to medical care and support services while providing education and assisting with sexual and needle-sharing partner notification to offer them testing, PrEP and community resources, if needed.

PS includes health education, risk reduction counseling, linkage to treatment and care, assisting with barriers to care, and explanations of positive test results/diagnosis.

## CONTACT US

**Allegheny County - 412-578-8081**  
**Allentown City - 610-437-7760 x2829**  
**Bethlehem City - 610-865-7058**  
**Bucks County - 215-345-3344**  
**Chester County - 610-344-6225**  
**Delaware County - 484-276-2100**  
**Erie County - 814-451-6700**  
**Montgomery County - 610-278-5117**  
**Philadelphia - 215-685-6585**  
**Wilkes-Barre City - 570-208-4010**  
**York City - 717-324-6581**  
**Northcentral District Office - 570-327-3400**  
**Northeast District Office - 570-892-4080**  
**Northwest District Office - 724-662-6068**  
**Southcentral District Office - 717-787-8092**  
**Southeast District Office - 610-378-4352**  
**Southwest District Office - 724-832-5315**

Contact the geographical regions health department office if your county or city is not listed.



## PARTNER SERVICES

### PROTECT YOURSELF

### PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY



**Pennsylvania**  
**Department of Health**



## IMPORTANCE OF PARTNER SERVICES

Partner services are important for connecting individuals to necessary resources after a positive test result for HIV or STDs.

Health department staff support individuals in many ways such as counseling and education, medical care treatment, linkages to early access testing, talking to partners, and providing prevention options.

## WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT FROM MY PARTNER SERVICES EXPERIENCE?

If you were diagnosed with HIV or an STD, someone from the health department may contact you to talk. This will be a private discussion that includes creating a plan that best fits you for notifying your partners that they could have been exposed to HIV or an STD with care and confidentiality.

Depending on what your plan looks like, the health department could confidentially reach out to your partner without telling them who gave their information and offer free testing and other services they may need to treat their infection and prevent others from becoming infected.

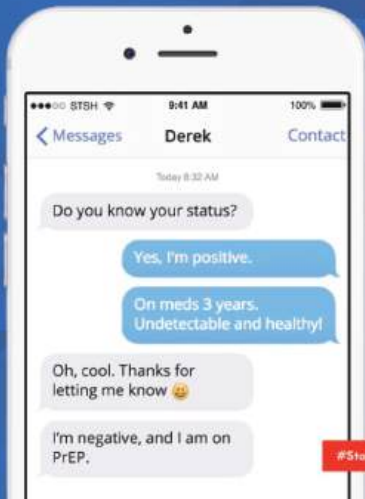
## HOW DO I TELL MY PARTNERS THEY NEED TO BE TESTED?

It is very important for your partners to know that they may have been exposed to HIV and/or an STD so they can access testing, medical care, prevention options and additional support services.

**You can tell them yourself:** You can let them know about their possible exposure and, with information you've obtained from the health department, help them get tested.

**You and the health department can notify them together:** You can let them know about their possible exposure and then the health department staff can provide information about testing and treatment.

**The health department can notify them:** You provide the information on your partners and then trained health department staff confidentially notify them to provide information about testing and treatment. Health department staff will not tell your partner your name or any information about you.



## WHAT INFORMATION WILL I BE ASKED TO PROVIDE FOR YOU TO NOTIFY MY PARTNERS?

The more information you can provide about your sexual partners or needle sharing partners, the easier it will be for health department staff to find and notify them. Keep in mind that names and contact information are kept strictly confidential.

- 1. NAME**  
A first and last name. Nicknames, aliases, screen names or handles on social media are also very helpful as well.
- 2. AGE**  
A birth date. If you do not know the exact date, try to estimate how old you think the person is.
- 3. ADDRESS OR LOCATION**  
An exact address, city or neighborhood. What social media apps they use, where they like to hangout and/or where they work.
- 4. PHONE NUMBER OR SCREEN NAME**  
This will help Health Department staff get in touch with them to provide testing information.
- 5. APPEARANCE**  
Knowing what someone looks like can help Health Department staff find the correct person in the community and when searching online or on dating apps.

If you have HIV, syphilis, chlamydia, or gonorrhea, you can spread it to others without knowing it.